



NatWest Island Games 2011
25 June – 1 July

PRESS RELEASE

11 April 2011

COMMISSION AWARDED FOR WATER CEREMONY SCULPTURE

The Island Games Association (IW) are delighted to announce that Paul Sivell, the Isle of Wight's best known and highly respected wood sculptor has been awarded the commission to make the sculpture for the Water Ceremony at the NatWest Island Games which takes place on the Isle of Wight on 25 June – 1 July this year.

The sculpture will be approx 1.8m high and depicts two hands carved from Island oak holding a bowl sculptured from beaten copper. The base will be carved into the shape of the Isle of Wight and will also be covered in beaten copper.

The Water Ceremony is an integral part of the NatWest Island Games Opening Ceremony and involves a representative from each of the participating 25 Islands adding water representing their Island into the copper bowl which will have a capacity to hold between 25 and 30 litres of water.

The Ceremony itself is a symbolic mixing of the waters recognising the 'Island' status of the competing nations and their merger for a major sporting festival – 'The Friendly Games'. The Water Ceremony is as significant to the Games Opening Ceremony as the lighting of the Olympic flame.

"Keith Lane, Ceremonies Manager, said, "We received four high class bids from local artists/creative companies for this commission which were considered by the Ceremonies Working Group. It was a very difficult decision but Paul's bid was chosen because his design both encapsulates the ethos of the Games with the carved hands, and the local perspective with the Isle of Wight shaped base".

The NatWest Island Games is an international event which will be held on the Isle of Wight from 25 June – 1 July, and involve around 3000 athletes from 25 member islands around the world competing in a range of 14 sports over 6 days.

Paul Sivell is Island born and bred. He began his career in forestry, arboriculture and countryside management . He did however begin experimenting with wood sculpture about 30 years ago. The

demand for his work steadily increased and he now has a steady flow of both public and private commissions. Paul has worked extensively throughout the UK but has also undertaken commissions in Europe, America and Turkey.

Paul's most common working media is condemned, dead or dying trees. He considers himself to be an environmental artist as he creates most of his work from recycling trees which would otherwise often end up in landfill. The majority of his work is site specific with themes that are inspired by nature, local traditions and mythology.

Details of the NatWest Island Games 2011 can be found at www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk

ENDS.

NOTE TO EDITOR

1. Could you please refer to the event as the 'NatWest Island Games' (not 'Island Games; or 'The Games') at the start of articles and in headlines,, and as 'the Games' mid copy, as appropriate. Thank you.

2. Please find attached image of the water sculpture prototype.

3. Background :

- The Island Games were established in the Isle of Man in 1985 and today include 25 member islands in, or associated with, the nine sovereign nations of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Norway, Spain, Sweden, UK plus the Caribbean :

Aland	Alderney	Bermuda
Cayman Islands	Falkland Islands	Faroe Islands
Froya Islands	Gibraltar	Gotland
Greenland	Guernsey	Hitra Islands
Isle of Man	Isle of Wight	Jersey
Menorca	Orkney	Prince Edward Island
Rhodes	Saaremaa	Sark
Shetlands Islands	St Helena	Western Isles
Ynys Mon		

- In 1999, NatWest became the title sponsor of the Island Games which has become one of the largest participation events in the world behind the Olympics and Commonwealth Games.
- The NatWest Island Games 2011 are being organised by the Isle of Wight Island Games Association, supported by the IW Council, which is also a sponsor.
- The 25 member islands compete every two years around the world in a range of up to 14 sports chosen by the Host Island from a list of 18.
- Sports chosen for 2011 are :
Archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, cycling, football, golf, sailing inc. windsurfing, squash, swimming, shooting, table tennis, tennis, volleyball
- The Games were last held on the Isle of Wight in 1993.
- Further information is available at www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk and www.islandgames.net

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www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk